

THE DAILY SHORT STORY.



A DANGEROUS COURTSHIP.

Translated by Al. x. Schaer.

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INCENSE ASLAUG, Knut Husaby's

pretty daughter, had grown into

a young and charming woman,

there was little peace in the vil-

lage of Husaby. Day and night the

hardy lads of the neighborhood engaged

in wordy and static quarrels on ac-

count. The climax was reached in the

inn on Saturday night, when some of

the boys had imbibed too much.

Knut Husaby would not think in

those days of going to sleep on Sat-

urday night without keeping his big

leather boots on. He was also sure to

have a heavy oak cane next to his bed

for emergency, as he called it. "Since

God has bestowed a pretty daughter

on me, it will be my duty to keep her

from harm," he would say.

There Naeset was the son of the

butcher, a strapping young fellow, full

of grit and daring. Gossipers said that

Thore visited Aslaug more frequently

than did any of the other young men of

the village. This rumor did not please

Knut. In fact, he decided it, saying that

he had never seen Thore and Aslaug to-

gether. But the people laughed and

winked at this. They insisted that Thore

was a shy lover and that Aslaug knew

how to hoodwink her father.

The spring came, and Aslaug drove

the cattle to the top of the Alm moun-

tain. As the sun slowly descended in

the horizon and far above the steep,

cool rocks of the mountain, the bel-

lowing of the cow, the barking of the

dog, and the yodel of Aslaug resounded

over the valley, the lads, who were

working in the meadows, felt as if they

would like to cast away their scythes

and pitchforks and rush up the steep

paths to court the fair singer.

When Saturday night came there was

a race between them to reach the moun-

tain top, but they descended much more

rapidly, for behind the door of the cattle

shed a stranger man was hidden. This

gave each and every caller a nugillie

reception, and told them that if they

wanted a more severe drumming at

another time to let them know that

the woe was not over. There was only

one man in all Husaby who could boast

of the possession of such a strong fist

as that possessed by Thore Naeset.

Some of the rich peasant sons of the

neighborhood thought that it was a

shame that the common opinion was

permitted to lord it thus on top of the

mountain and to keep all workers away

from the beautiful Aslaug.

Old Knut was of the same opinion

when he was told of the bold doings of

Thore, and he boasted everywhere that

if there was no one in Husaby who could

conquer Aslaug's favorite he and his

son would show that they could do it

in short order.

Knut, it is true, was beginning to age

visibly. He was sixty years old, but

despite this he would now and then

engage in a bout with his son in the bar-

nyard and prove a formidable antagonist.

Only one paid fee to the top of the

Alm, and it was the top of the Alm.

And it was the top of the Alm that

Knut's farm, on the following Satur-

day night when Thore wanted to as-

cend the mountain and was passing by

the side of the barn he suddenly felt

the grip of a strong arm around his

throat.

"What do you want of me?" asked

Thore. He swung himself around de-

toursly and threw his assailant into the

thicket.

"You will know soon enough what

we want of you," said another, who

dealt him a severe blow on his breast.

This was Aslaug's brother.

"Hush—come in here," rejoined

Old Knut, who had meanwhile managed

to extricate himself from the bushes,

and with these words Thore received an-

other telling blow.

In the face of danger Thore's strength

was loathsome. His prowess came him to

stead, for two muscular giants had at-

tacked. In the end, however, despite

his agility and power, Thore got a hard

MISS IRENE VANBRUGH
IN "GAY LORD QUEX."

MISS IRENE VANBRUGH.

English Actress a Revelation
to New York Playgoers in
Wicked but Clever Drama.

It is useless to further discuss the play of "The Gay Lord Quex" as it is being presented to us these days at the Criterion Theatre. It came here from England labelled "wicked," but passed the Treasury officials successfully, just as did "The Girl from Maxim's," "Coralie & Co.," "Self and Lady," and "The Husbands of Leontine."

We all know that "The Gay Lord Quex" is a sterilized product of Boaceto, Reynolds, Lauder and a hundred others (not forgetting Lord Byron), and that it is extremely clever; but what we all did not know is that John Hare, capable and convincing actor that he is, cannot claim to be the star of the play by any means, despite the fact that he is advertised as such. Miss Irene Vanbrugh is the star; she is hardly going too far to designate her as the entire drama.

Such acting as to be doing these nights by Miss Vanbrugh is a revelation to New York playgoers. Nothing so clever, so dainty, so altogether satisfactory has been seen here in years. An excellent reputation has preceded Miss Vanbrugh to these shores, and she was expected to be a good foil to the undisputedly talented Mr. Hare. But that she was to dominate and control this latest Pinero play by sheer force of her act was certainly not anticipated.

Miss Vanbrugh is not a handsome

woman, and, unless I am greatly mis-taken, she is no longer young, judged from her boarding-school standards. She is tall and slender, thin of feature, and not noticeably graceful of movement. But she has an intensity and an earnestness in all her work which is difficult to play. She plays a difficult part, and when I say difficult I use the word advisedly, for few women, if any, of our own stage could play it.

It is a rather hasty party when you come to consider it calmly. Your fairly good-looking woman could make of Sophy Pakenham—and in all probability would—a coarse, vulgar, sensuous young person, to be avoided by any gentlemanly man. But Miss Vanbrugh gives it a delicate and a sweet womanliness that is inexhaustibly refreshing.

She is worldly of course; she knows that real champagne bubbles and that plums do not grow on crab-apple trees; but she plays this worldliness so as to make it not only inoffensive but positively attractive. For my memory as to what I can recall but two women who have in a single night as completely captured Broadway. Henrietta Cromwell came out of the past and won; Irene Vanbrugh came over the sea, and has triumphed. She has made of "The Gay Lord Quex" something to see and to talk about. Without her John Hare and Arthur Pinero would look small and paltry. Indeed, despite the fact that Hare is a genius and the third act of Mr. Pinero's play a splendid achievement of dramatic construction.

But you can't get away from this one truth—Miss Vanbrugh is the central figure on the stage of the Criterion, and will continue such until "The Gay Lord Quex" leaves the stage.

WILLIAM RAYMOND BILL.

TO OPEN NEW
INSANE ASYLUM.Hospital at Dannemora
Will Receive 150 Con-
vict Patients To-night.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Nov. 14.—The first transfer of insane convicts from the Matteawan State Hospital to the new hospital at Dannemora, Clinton County, will be made to-night. Forty-eight male patients will be sent from Matteawan. Within a month the total number of inmates of the new institution will be 150, which is its present capacity.

The transfer to-night will be made up of some of the quiet class of patients. Among them will be George Frank, alias "Frenchy," the murderer of a woman known on the east side of New York as "Old Shakespeare." Another will be John B. Griffin, one of the Pawling dynamiters.

The Superintendent is Dr. R. B. Lamb, who has been for a number of years First Assistant Superintendent of Matteawan. He has taken eighteen of the most experienced attendants from Matteawan to assist him in installing the new institution. When completed the institution will have a capacity for 150 patients, and will be as large as the asylum at Matteawan. The Dannemora Hospital is intended for persons convicted of felonies, and all convicts of that class will in the future be sent there from the three State prisons and the various penitentiaries and reformatories of the State instead of to Matteawan.

The latter institution will be reserved for insane persons convicted of misdemeanors and petty offenses. No female prisoners will be sent to Dannemora.

VERDICT AGAINST RAILROAD.

Woman Thrown from a Car

Awarded \$1,500 by a Jury.

Mrs. Philippa Oberheim, of 319 Tenth

avenue, has recovered a verdict of \$1,500

in the City Court against the Metropolitan

Street Railway Company.

The woman was thrown against an

iron pillar while boarding a Sixth avenue

car at Forty-second street on Jan. 1, last

and severely injured. She claimed

that the conductor started the car while

she was boarding it.

Mrs. Oberheim sued for \$2,000 through

her counsel, Louis Blocker.

The jury found for the plaintiff.

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